

From: Danny Brown
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 10:38pm
Subject: Hidden Microsoft Training Sham

Please restrict the Microsoft training scam they are perpetrating on people like myself. Microsoft is conspiring with a group of approved training centers, book publishers, and testing centers to fraudulently take our money in a training program scam.

At age 53, I was "downsized" by my former employer. To enhance my ability to find work, I spent \$8,000 of my savings and 200-plus hours of classroom time in a "Microsoft approved" training school, using "Microsoft approved" textbooks, taking a series of 6 "Microsoft approved" exams at a "Microsoft approved" test center (at \$100 per pop) to obtain my Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer certification (MCSE)... only to be notified by Microsoft that they have decided to make all MCSE's retake their exams over mostly the same material to remain certified. NONE of the students who paid their thousands of dollars in fees were ever told that the certifications could be cancelled at the whim of Microsoft in order to keep their relationships with their training centers, text publishers, and testing centers secure and very profitable.

These Microsoft approved training centers, text book publishers, and testing centers MUST have a constant flow of students to keep profitable and in business. In addition, Microsoft gets a cut of the action at each level.

I know improvements are made in the software over time, and have I have no problem taking one or even two exams over the software improvements to keep current. However, to make us take all (now SEVEN) exams over 75% of the same material has only one purpose - to keep the grist in the Microsoft training mills and keep their approved training partners, approved text publishers, and approved test centers busy and profitable.

I pointed out to Microsoft that CPAs, Attornys, and MDs attend classes and seminars to keep current on changes in their profession, but they do not have to retake all the exams of the CPA exam, bar exam, or medical boards every time rules, laws or procedures change.

Microsoft, as a monopoly, has said "too bad", you must retake exams over the same material at our approved test centers, anyway.

Please insist that they can put together tests covering changes to their software and make us take them, but that they cannot insist that we be forced to retake exams over already tested material to remain current.

To do otherwise gives Microsoft permission to use its monopoly power to force us to spend many thousands of dollars in courses and testing that no other profession is compelled to do. Microsoft can do for one reason only - they are a monopoly and if we don't like it, tough!

Thank you.

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